

Inventor: Nitesh Ratnakar
Serial No.: 10/711,859
Filed: October 11, 2004
Title: Dual View Endoscope

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as shown on the attached sheets.

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the reference numeral 20 for receiving images in a second direction at an angle to the first direction. However, like the Irion '787 patent, nothing in the '662 patent shows or suggests providing a catheter receivable in a hollow channel of a shaft for extension and retraction therethrough, as required by independent claim 1. Such a structure is entirely absent from the Mitsui '662 patent.

Given that none of the cited references show or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines over such references and is in proper form for allowance. Claims 3, 10, 12-16, 41, 43 and 67 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define an endoscope not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 3, 10, 12-16, 41, 43 and 67 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 47 defines an endoscope system for examining a hollow body component. The endoscope system includes an endoscope having an outer periphery and a distal end housing a first image lens for receiving images in a first direction. The endoscope defines a hollow channel therethrough. A catheter is received within the channel of the endoscope and has proximate and distal ends. A rear view module is positioned at the distal end of the catheter and includes a second image lens. At least a portion of the module is movable between a first position and a second position wherein the second lens receives images in a second direction at an angle to the first direction.

As heretofore described with respect to independent claim 1, nothing in any of the cited references shows or suggests an endoscope system having a first and second image lens and a catheter extending through a channel in the endoscope wherein the second lens of the rear view module is positioned adjacent the distant end of the catheter. Such a structure is entirely absent from all of the cited references. Consequently, it is believed that independent claim 47 defines over the cited references and is in proper form for allowance.

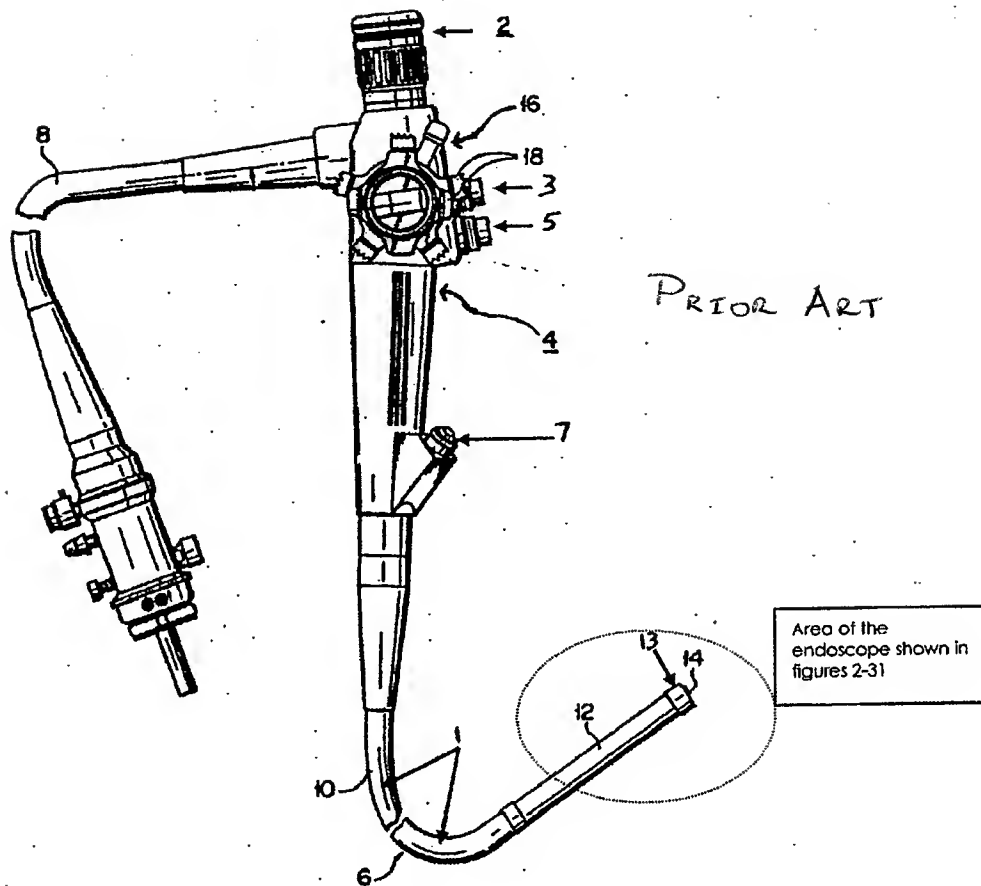
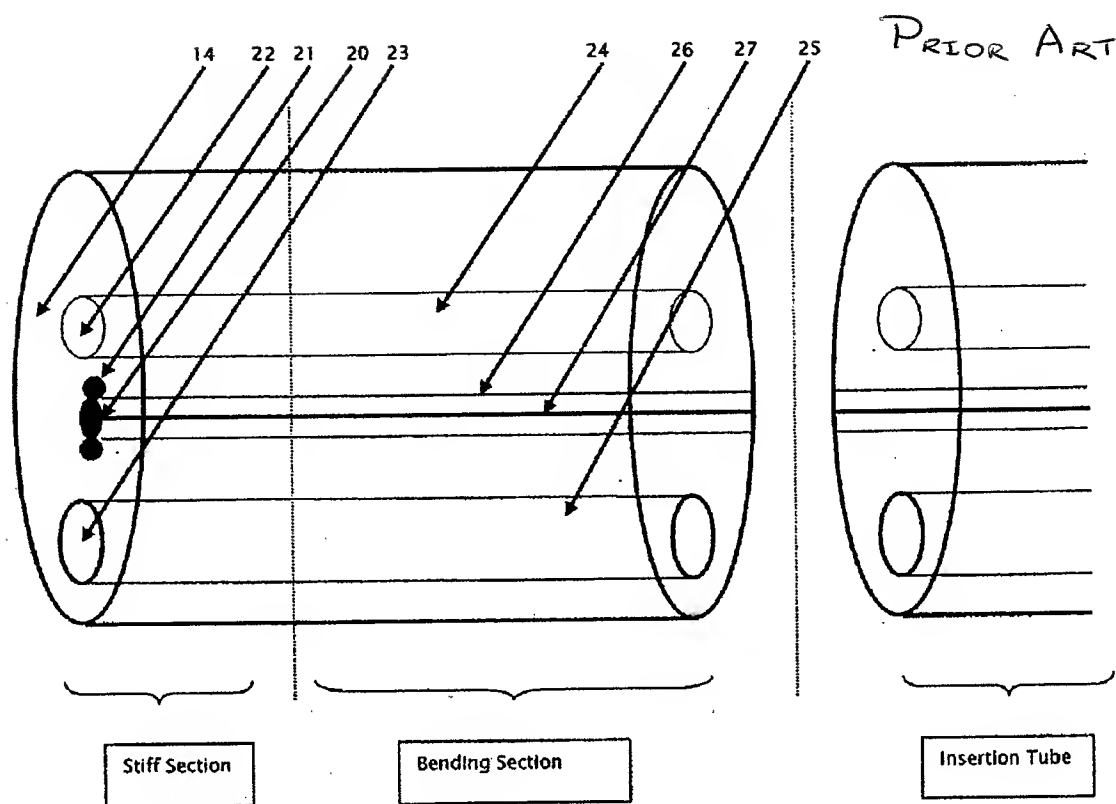


FIG. 1



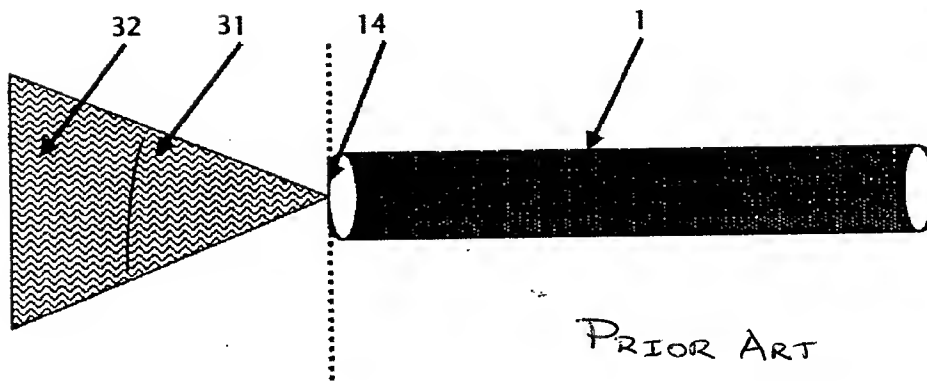
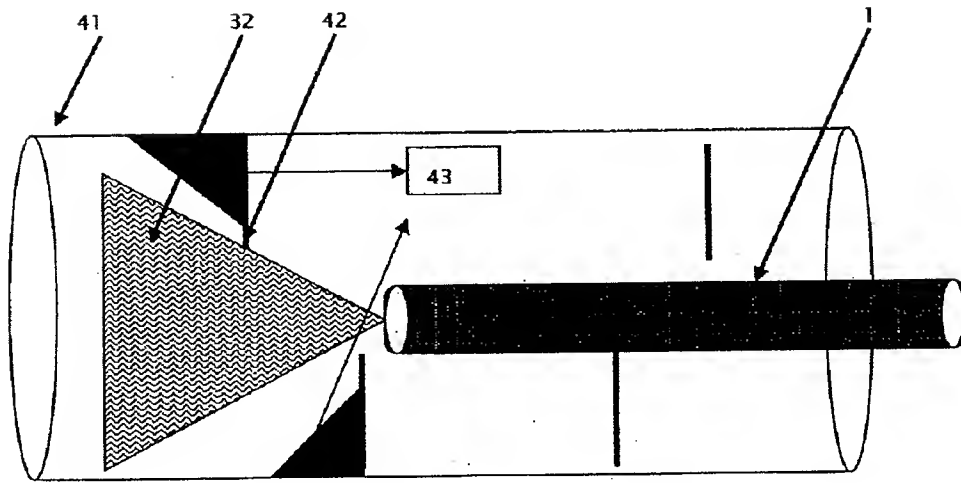
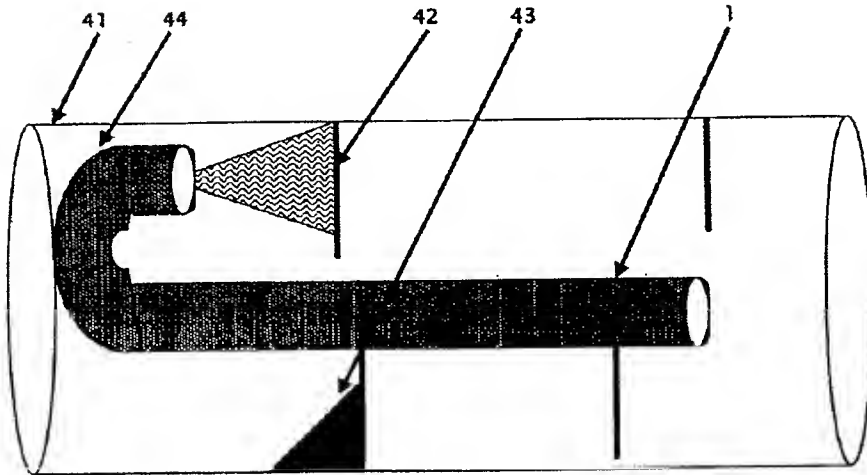


FIG. 3



PRIOR ART

FIG. 4A



PRIOR ART

FIG. 4B